

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kimberly Perry on 03/26/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 26, line 10: after "withdrawing" please delete "the"

In claim 28, line 2: after "flange includes a plurality" please delete "opening" and insert -- openings --. CE 4/28/09

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 8, 18, and 28, Gordon et al. (US 6,346,111) disclose a device for joining a first body vessel with a second body vessel, comprising: a cartridge, the cartridge including a body having a distal end and a plurality of longitudinal channels defined in the body, each longitudinal channel being open on said body at said distal end, a plurality of drive wires (pusher) adapted to be received in said longitudinal channels, a plurality of needle anchors (10) adapted to be seated within a respective one of said channels, each needle anchors having a pointed distal end; a plurality of sutures, wherein each respective suture of said plurality of sutures is secured to one of said needle anchors (Fig. 1A-H). Gordon et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest an anchor fitting having a flange including a plurality of holes therethrough.

Regarding claims 1, 8, 18, and 28, Whitin et al. (US 6,190,396) disclose a device for joining a first body vessel with a second body vessel, comprising: an anchor fitting (33), a cartridge (20), the cartridge including a body having a distal end and a plurality of longitudinal